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NORMAL SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ROUND TABLE

The Normal School Librarians Round Table was held on Wednesday afternoon, June 25, Miss Mary C. Richardson, librarian of the Normal School Library, Geneseo, New York, presiding.

A very full program left no time for discussion of the papers read, which were as follows: "Teaching the use of the library in the grades," by Mrs. Elizabeth Hardman Furst, school librarian, North Adams, Massachusetts; "Teaching normal school students children's literature," by

Miss Adeline B. Zachert, supervisor of extension work, Public Library, Rochester, New York; "A course in library technique for all; what we have been doing—what we would like to do," by Miss Mildred R. Forward, librarian City Normal School, Rochester, New York; "The library hour," by Bessie L. Eldridge, assistant librarian, State Normal School, Geneseo, New York; "The vision of Anton, the librarian," by Miss Harriet King Avery, Keystone State Normal School, Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS ROUND TABLE

The Public Documents Round Table was held on Friday afternoon, June 27, the chairman, Mr. George S. Godard, state librarian of Connecticut, presiding.

Mr. H. H. B. Meyer, chief bibliographer of the Library of Congress, was introduced as the first speaker, and made a brief and informal statement regarding tentative plans now under consideration by the Joint Committee on Printing, of Congress, looking toward a reduction of the number of Government publications by the elimination of any found to be unnecessary.

Mr. Meyer further explained that in the case of publications of which both Congressional and Departmental issues have been published in the past, the duplication would probably be discontinued; that some plan would be adopted whereby selective distribution would be better secured, libraries thus to receive only the publications they especially require; and that in these efforts toward economy it is the wish of the Joint Committee on Printing to meet the desires of the librarians of the country as far as practicable, and to invite expression of opinion from librarians, through a committee representing them.

Chairman Godard next called upon Miss Edith Guerrier, who addressed the assembly upon the work of the National Library Service, using as illustration of her remarks a large collection of exhibits.

Having stated that in demonstrating the value of public documents many charts are obtainable showing the organization of the Government, Miss Guerrier indicated a desirable arrangement of material, general departmental reports, general historical data and lists of departmental publications to be followed by bureaus, alphabetically arranged; and the speaker continued by explaining some of the methods of the National Library Service as follows:

The Superintendent of Documents and the people in his office have cooperated well with us. They telephone me every month when their list is ready to send over to the Library of Congress, and I go down and select the publications of general interest under the different departments, beginning with the Department of Agriculture and going down the alphabet. Thus I get a list of the publications which librarians ought to know about and obtain before Congressmen have distributed them all. This is a short list, and I have been arranging so that the librarians could write to the National Library

Service for the publications they want. This is not a plan to take away business from the departments, but a reciprocal arrangement; it will help them sell their goods to those who want them. Under this plan, librarians will write to us and send a list of what they want, and once a week we will sort out the things belonging to the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, etc., and ask those departments to send you those things. They are much more apt to do it when they get a request in that form, and they are cooperating with us. If the librarians don't get what they want, they can write to me, and I will call the department on the telephone to expedite the mailing of the publications.

This is the best centralized distribution we can get under existing circumstances, and the thing is, not to wait until Congress in its wisdom has seen fit to devise some method for us, but to get the things to the librarians when you need them. I don't say it is the best system, but is the best I have been able to devise.

The idea later on will be for the librarians—if this thing works—to write their requests on cards, in duplicate, so that the National Library Service will keep one card and send the other on. If we hear from a librarian who has not received the material asked for, we just call up the department and request them to look out for it.

I will call your attention to one other class of material from the Government which I think is not used as much as it might be—periodical publications, known as house organs. The *Alaska Railroad Record*, the *Reclamation Record*, *School Life*, the *Journal of the Patent Office*, and the *Monthly Record of Publications*, are all interesting, and none of them costs over fifty cents a year. *School Life*, which every library can have, is free, and is an important and interesting publication. The periodical publications are sometimes overlooked.

The pictures—the photographs which are put out by the various bureaus—I find have not been brought to the attention of librarians as much as they should have been. I had a great deal of trouble in my little branch library in Boston, in getting pictures which illustrated mining. The Bureau of Mines has a wonderful collection of pictures, and the librarian of that bureau, who is here, will be able to tell you a great deal more about it than I can. The pictures can be bought at cost, and most of the bureaus have lists of pictures which they put out. The Forestry Service, of the Department of Agriculture, has

one of the finest collections in this country, and in the National Library Service bulletin you will find the names of bureaus which will furnish films or slides, to libraries which have stereopticons or moving picture machines.

Another thing I want to call your attention to is a news digest of releases, which I hope to issue. I have coming into the office releases—perhaps 250 a week—from the different bureaus of the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Interior, and War. I make a digest of the material, and get it into about half a page of typewriting, selecting what seems to be the most interesting. Large libraries could use this on their bulletin board, or in their monthly or quarterly bulletin on agriculture, commerce, labor, and so on. This digest of press releases could be sent to editors of library bulletins, or to any librarians who had special need for it. This would be a mimeographed affair. It seems to me every library in agricultural districts would be glad to know of a little play that the Farm Bureau has been giving successfully, and librarians are looking for plays in the children's department.

I make further use of these releases. I don't like to throw these printed documents away, so after clipping what I want, I send them to another place. There are sixty sent out for bulletin board material to librarians I believe want them.

It seems to me in this way we can get to the people throughout the country a personal message from the Government. Having been in Washington now for eighteen months, and having started on this business of helping to present my Government to the people, I am enthusiastic about my Government.

Having gone through two or three hundred bureaus, and met the people who are doing the work, I wish our people throughout the United States could become aware of the real things that the Government is doing, and could do their little bit to help to make those real things still more real. The thing I would like to see our public libraries do is to take every opportunity of presenting our American Government, through the words of the people who are carrying on that Government, to the people who use our libraries, in order that all may know that ours is a Government of and by, as well as for the people.

Mr. Bowker: I move that the Public Documents Round Table thoroughly approves the work of the National Information Service and believes that it results both in a saving to the Government in pub-

lication, and in a vast increase of the usefulness of Government publications through the libraries of the country.

Carried unanimously.

Miss Dena M. Kingsley, the next speaker on the program, presented a paper on

RECENT TENDENCIES IN STATE PUBLICATIONS
(See p. 294)

Discussion followed, in which Mr.

Bowker, Mr. Redstone, Mr. Brigham, and others took part.

Miss Taylor having called attention to an index of labor literature contemplated by the Commissioner of Labor, it was voted that a committee of five, with Chairman Godard as a member, be appointed to take up this matter as well as the plans of the Joint Committee on Printing, spoken of earlier in the meeting by Mr. Meyer.

The meeting was then adjourned.

ROUND TABLE OF THE LIBRARIES OF RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

The fourth annual meeting of the Round Table of the Libraries of Religion and Theology was held on the afternoon of June 28, the chairman, Mr. Azariah S. Root, presiding.

The first paper, by George D. Brown, of the General Theological Seminary of New York City, was bibliographical in nature: an annotated list of some important works relating to the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States. Each member of the Round Table had before him a mimeographed copy of Dr. Brown's list, and was thus able to follow closely the speaker's concise and pointed annotations. The list thus forms a valuable bibliography for anyone dealing with the Protestant Episcopal church.

A special type of religious library was then presented by Miss Maud I. Stull, of the *World Outlook*, who read a paper on the library of a missionary periodical. She pictured the conditions obtaining in such a library, where every effort is bent on securing facts accurately and promptly, and where physical conditions, if nothing more, discourage browsing. Her paper was enlivened by examples of some of the impossible questions asked, and she emphasized the fact that the library must be kept right up to the minute. Most of the books of such a library are gifts in return for reviews or advertisements.

A survey of the relative strength of missionary collections in various institutions was given by Mr. Frank G. Lewis, Crozer

Theological Seminary. He had compiled this survey as a result of a questionnaire sent to twenty-two libraries, seventeen of which answered. He found that with the exception of the Foreign Missions Library and the Missionary Research Library there are no important separate missionary collections (the Day Missions Library being really a part of the Yale libraries). Nevertheless, various of the theological and seminary libraries possess important missionary material in limited fields. Thus the biggest collection of Baptist material is probably to be found at Chester. He spoke of the lack of a recognized standard for determining what constitutes a "missionary" work, and noted the unexpectedly large amount of literature published in this field. As an illustration of this he quoted the report of one library as receiving some 246 periodicals currently. Some discussion followed, in which Dr. Thayer, of Hartford, pointed out that while a questionnaire is the only available means of surveying such a field, it is frequently impossible to answer it fairly to the institution concerned. There seemed to be a general feeling that for any future survey there should be a more uniform basis of reporting, in accordance with generally accepted definitions of terms.

The last paper of the meeting was read by Mr. Glenn B. Ewell, of Rochester Theological Seminary, and discussed some administrative problems incident to the handling of funds in a theological library.